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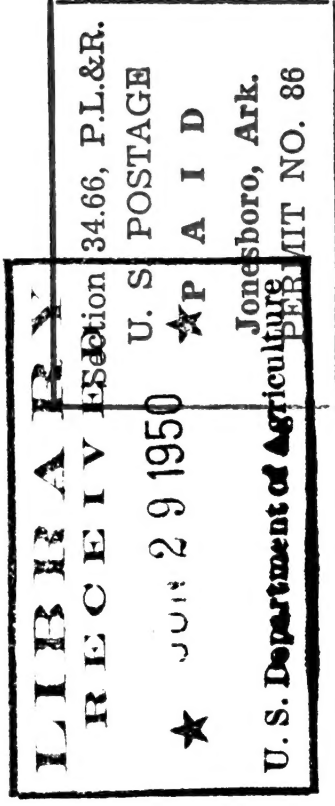
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RUSSWARD
Saintpaulia Growers

629 W. MATTHEWS AVE.

JONESBORO, ARK.

Library, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
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News Letter

June, 1950

Dear Friends:

Most of the spring violet shows are over. A queer time, you think, to talk about grooming show plants? Not on your life. The time to start to work on a blue-ribbon plant is about three months after it first breaks ground. If you want single crown plants, this is the ideal time to divide. Even multiple-crown show plants will need to have some of the smaller crowns cut out, or more added, and this, also, can best be done when the plant is three or four months old. If division is delayed until later, you might have trouble training the center to grow flat, particularly if you're dealing with a Supreme or a DuPont.

But let's digress long enough to find out what we're trying to do here. Many of you are already familiar with the National Point System for Judging but for the benefit of those who are new to organized violetry, will submit it here:

Leaf pattern (symmetry)	35 points
Quantity of bloom	20
Size of bloom	10
Color (according to variety)	10
Condition (Cultural perfection)	25
Perfection	100

After a brief study of this scale you will see that the emphasis is on long-term plant perfection rather than on a profusion of bloom which may be gone a week after the show. A well-grown specimen with leaves symmetrically layered from the center out to the edge, with nary a spot, burn or blemish would rate 80 points even if it only had one open flower of good size and color. On the other hand, a more bizarre neighbor on the show

table might boast of fifty flowers and twenty more buds, but splotchy foliage and one-sided growth would earn only 40 points.

Diligence, then, kids, should be devoted to the foliage. The foliar pattern will be pretty well taken care of by the plant itself. It becomes the task of the hobbyist to see that nothing interferes with the natural tendency. In the case of single crowns, suckers must be kept trimmed off the main crown stalk. If these are allowed to attain any great size, they will shove the larger leaves out of place and before you know it, the symmetry of your plant is permanently gone. A pair of long tweezers make an excellent tool for this operation.

A drip of cold water on a perfect plant might well mean disaster. As in all things, the nearer one approaches perfection, the more glaring is the smallest defect. An unsightly white blotch would hardly be noticed on a third-rate plant, but would immediately strike a judges' eye at a violet show if it appeared on a possible winner.

If, in spite of all your precautions, you should happen to come up with a spotted or broken leaf, however, it might be disguised in one of the following ways: (1) If the plant has a nice full growth, and you still have a couple of months until show time, you might remove the marred leaf and gently pull the adjacent leaves together to fill the gap left by the bad one. They may be secured in this position with pipe cleaners until they are trained. (2) (This one takes longer—about six months). Remove the offender. In about a month a new little crown will start to grow from the scar of the old leaf. Trim back all of this new sucker except one up-facing leaf. In time the new leaf will fill in the vacant spot in a very satisfactory manner. (3) Good only if an outer leaf is involved. This is also an excellent way to fill in lop-sided growth. Borrow a leaf or two from another plant of the same variety (or similar foliage type), place in water or sand until roots about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long have formed. Now "plant" the rooted leaves in the same pot with your show plant—near the base of the crown so they will fill in your gap. You'll have to keep the little plants trimmed off of your rooted leaves

as they come up. Also be sure to cover the rim of your pot if the new rooted leaves rest on it.

Now, I must warn you that the procedures described above are a darn sight easier to read than they are to execute. You run the risk of creating six or seven more foliage gaps while attempting to fill in one. If you try any of this, pick a day when your nerves are very calm and your plant is very dry.

Still about leaves. Another good thing to know is this: if a leaf stem is accidentally broken, sometimes it will grow back together if propped into its original position. It's worth a try, anyhow.

Nearly everybody knows by now that the easiest way to accomplish even growth is by weekly turning so that all sides of the plant are equally exposed to the light. If a recalcitrant leaf seems determined to grow straight up, gently force it down with a pipe-cleaner hook which has been anchored in the soil.

If problems of light and fertilizer are satisfactorily solved, the quantity and size of bloom will take care of themselves. A word should be contributed here, however, concerning flower color. Flower color may be controlled by (in order of importance) sunlight, acidity of soil, and fertilizer. If you have plenty of bloom but your colors are pale and washed out, add a teaspoon of powdered lime to a quart of water for feedings once or twice a month. The results will be dramatic IF you already have good bloom. If not, the pale color may be due to lack of sunlight or insufficient fertilizing.

Am running out of space and haven't even started on multiple-crowns, novelties, or decorative classes. Will finish up loose ends next month. 'Bye now.

Yours,

"Russ"

RUSSWARD Saintpaulia Growers

629 W. MATTHEWS AVE.

JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Sustaining Member African Violet Society of America, Inc.



Ship To_____ Date_____

Street or R.F.D. _____

Town and State_____

Amount Enclosed \$_____

If this order is being sent as a gift, please write your own name and address below, since we would like to notify you of shipment.

Gift wrapping on request.

[illegible]**ARKANSAS CUSTOMERS: ADD 2% SALES TAX**

PRICE LIST

***Amethyst, West Coast**—Still far and away the bloomin'est thing we have to offer. Pale lavender blooms in profusion, dark green foliage **\$1.25**

***Bi-Color**—Upper petals deep red violet, lower lavender. Slick foliage **\$1.50**

***Blue Bird**—Fine medium blue. Improved large medium foliage **\$1.50**

***Blue Boy**—Old favorite dark blue **\$1.25**

***Blue Girl**—Scalloped, medium green foliage with white marking at the base of the leaf. Rich blue flower **\$1.25**

***Blue Knight**—This plant appears to us to resemble McFarland's Blue Warrior—may be the same thing. The two plants are enough alike that you won't want both of them, at any rate. Good medium blue flowers, BIG leaves, nice growth **\$1.75**

***Blush Maid**—Exquisite shell pink. Foliage like Pink Beauty, bloom much paler **\$1.50**

***Blue Butterfly**—We have some awfully pretty plants of this. Lovely big pale blue variety.... **\$1.75**

***Blush Orchid**—The palest orchid we've seen in the African Violet color range. Just a whiff of tint. Pink Beauty-type foliage **\$1.50**

***Brown's Dot**—Our own home-grown plants of this, but we still implore you not to buy it for the "dot", which you have to hunt for at the base of the leaf. It's a fine, sturdy variety with nice habit and generous blooming characteristics. Ovate, slightly quilted foliage. Dark blue flower. **\$1.50**

***Brown's Pet**—Neat little miniature Blue Girl. Compact, rosette-type growth, dark blue flowers in profusion **\$2.00**

***Dainty Maid**—Pretty little pink. Flower petals quite slender. Small plant, light green foliage **\$1.25**

***Double Duchess**—Double blue. Fertilize generously to keep the blooms opening. Sport of Blue Boy—has same foliage **\$1.50**

***Double Orchid**—If you already have “Regal Wine”, don’t buy this. Twin of Double Duchess with orchid double flower **\$1.75**

***DuPont Hybrid Silver Pink**—Flowers open a rich orchid shade, settling down in about two days to the sparkling “silver pink”, or pale lavender-pink **\$2.00**

***Kewensis**—This looks like a little wild-flower you dug up in the woods. People say “Is that an African Violet, too?” Which, of course, it is **\$1.25**

***Lavender Girl**—Scalloped, medium green foliage with the white marking at the base of the leaf. Pale lavender bloom **\$1.50**

***Lavender Lady**—This comes from the same general family as West Coast Amethyst. Foliage similar, bloom darker—mid-way between a “red” and a pale lavender **\$1.25**

***Moire**—People have been asking for this. Variegation of rich purple blossom resembles moire taffeta. Medium green foliage **\$1.75**

***Old Lace**—Deeply scalloped leaves. Dark blue flowers carried high and profusely **\$1.75**

***Orchid Beauty**—The orchid sister of Blue Boy **\$1.75**

***Orchid Neptune**—Ditto Neptune **\$1.75**

***Orchid Wonder**—Don’t even know enough about this plant to describe it. Several customers have been asking for it, though, so here it is **\$1.50**

***Periwinkle**—Distinct for the pale reverse of the light blue flower, giving the blossoms a halo effect. Three-inch **\$2.00**

Two-inch (please specify which size) **\$1.50**

***Pink Beauty Supreme**—Still have a few of these. **\$1.50**

***Pink Girl**—Scalloped, medium green foliage with the white marking at the base of the leaf. Pink flower **\$1.75**

***Purple Prince**—Magnificent for color. Rich, velvety red-purple with slick, heart-shaped leaves. **\$1.50**

***Red Head**—Rich claret red flowers. Slick, improved foliage **\$1.50**

Red King—A brand new variety. Distinct for enormous claret-red flowers \$2.00

***Rosalie**—A red-lavender variety of great merit. Leaves grow to enormous size, quite dark green, troughed and slightly waved. A show plant of easy culture \$1.75

***Rose Purple**—Medium blue flowers with rosy cast. Fine foliage. We guarantee you'll like this one! \$1.50

Ruffles—I never have any luck getting people to buy this plant sight unseen. They just don't believe there could be such thing. If you've seen a Ruffles at a Violet show, or in your neighbors window, however, you'll want it \$1.75

***Von Deitrich**—Impressive variety with gorgeous foliage. Fast grower, quite large. Medium large flower \$1.50

***White Lady**—White flowers against medium green foliage \$1.25

* In bloom.

Potting Mixture for Violets \$0.75

Vermiculite \$0.75

Peat Moss \$0.85

Sheep Manure \$0.35

Sodium Selenate (instructions included) \$1.00

Nnor \$1.00

Hyponex \$1.00

Please Note: So far as we know, there is no yellow African Violet. Caveat emptor, and don't say we didn't warn you!

Shipping Instructions—Plants shipped in 2-inch pots in which they are grown. Cultural instructions included. List price includes packing and mailing cost. All orders sent special handling. We guarantee safe arrival of plants. For your own protection, please remit by check or money order. Stamps are quite acceptable for small orders, but please (!) send 1's, 2's, or 3's.
